

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03949 131700Z

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TAGS: EEC, EFTA, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN FOR SEWING MACHINES

REF: (A) STATE A-5676, JULY 3, 1973

(B) STATE 92612

(C) EC BRUSSELS 2847

1. SUMMARY. MISSION CONVEYED POINTS IN REPAIR TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS ON JULY 12. COMMISSION OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO GIVE IMMEDIATE ANSWER SINCE THERE SEEM TO EXIST NO AGREED INTERPRETATIONS OF RULES OF ORIGIN FOR SEWING MACHINES. COMMISSION WILL SUBMIT PROBLEM TO EXPERTS FOR ADVICE IN ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE MISSION'S INQUIRY. END SUMMARY

2. ON JULY 12 MISSION DISCUSSED SEWING MACHINE PROBLEM WITH OLE TOBIESEN-MEYER, CHIEF OF COMMISSION DIVISION FOR THE ORIGIN OF GOODS, AND RAYMOND JANSSENS, CHIEF OF DIVISION FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMON CUSTOMS TARIFF. MISSION STRESSED THE NEED TO OBTAIN THE ANSWERS TO TWO PRECISE QUESTIONS: (A) WHAT IS MEANT BY "CROCHET MECHANISM" AND "GRIEFER", AND (B) WHETHER A DRIWING MECHANISM IS OR IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE AN ORIGINATING PRODUCT. MISSION LEFT COPIES OF THE ENCLOSURE TO REPAIR, SAMPLES OF SEWING MACHINE PARTS FORWARDED FROM COMMERCE BY TRANSMITTAL SLIP ON JUNE 28, AND AN INFORMAL TALKING POINT SUMMARY OF REPAIR. COMMISSION OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO GIVE AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 03949 131700Z

AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD NEED TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION AGAIN TO

EXPERTS.

3. IT EMERGED FROM THE CONVERSATION THAT DEFINITIONS OF THE RULES OF ORIGIN FOR SEWING MACHINES WERE DETERMINED IN THE COMMITTEES NEGOTIATING THE EC/EFTA AGREEMENTS WITH LITTLE OR NO ASSISTANCE FROM THE COMMISSIONS CUSTOMS OFFICIALS (JANSSENS'S UNIT). NO EXPLANATORY NOTES HAVE YET BEEN WRITTEN TO INTERPRET SEWING MACHINE SECTION OF RULES OF ORIGIN, AND TOBIESEN-MEYER'S FILES HAVE NO NEGOTIATING HISTORY EXPLAINING INTENT OF RULES ON SEWING MACHINES. COMMISSION OFFICIALS STATED THAT IN THE FIRST INSTANCE INTERPRETATION OF RULES OF FOREIGN TERMINOLOGY WOULD REST WITH NATIONAL CUSTOMS OFFICIALS. IN CASE OF DISPUTE OF IF LATTER THOUGHT THEY COULD NOT HANDLE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS, MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO MIXED COMMITTEES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS. BEFORE SUBMITTING SUCH A PROBLEM TO THE MIXED COMMITTEES THE COMMISSION WOULD FIRST ARRIVE AT ITS OWN POSITION THEN TRY TO PUSH THIS THROUGH THE MIXED COMMITTEES. MISSION WILL PURSUE THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH THE COMMISSION IN AN EFFORT TO GET A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE BUT WE ARE DUBIOUS THAT WE WILL OBTAIN ONE VERY SHORTLY.

4. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS MR. TOBIESEN-MEYER REFERRED TO OUR PREVIOUS INQUIRY REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE CAMSHAFT (REFTEL B AND C). HE SAID THAT COMMISSION EXPERTS WERE OF THE OPINION THAT THE CAMSHAFT WAS PART OF THE ZEIZAG MECHANISM. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER INFORMATION ON FAVORABLE DEFINITION OF "ZIGZAG MECHANISM", IF MATTER IS TO BE PURSUED. (INFORMATION ON "ZIG-ZAG MECHANISM" COULD BE KEYED TO ENCLOSURES TO REPAIR.)

5. MISSION WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON WHETHER UNION SPECIAL HAS INTEREST IN DEFINITION THAT WOULD ALLOW LOOPERS TO BE NON-ORIGINATING PART. THIS IS IN ANTICIPATION THAT COMMISSION MIGHT TEND TO THE VIEW THAT CORCHET MECHANISM IS NOT SOLELY HOOKING DEVICE FOR A LOCKSTICH BUT HOOKING DEVICE FOR ANY SORT OF STITCH.
GREENWALD

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